

Career Grades 2008-2018



NAVIGATING MISSOURI'S TOP JOBS—2010



Department of Economic Development



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Navigating Missouri's Top Jobs

With over 800 occupations to consider, choosing a career can be challenging. Missouri Career Grades are a tool to help compare the future outlook of these occupations. To make the comparisons easier, the Missouri Career Grades Report assigns letter grades to various occupations within the state based on each occupation's outlook over the next decade. For example, occupations in the Grade A category have the best outlook while Grade F jobs have the worst outlook. Grades are based on a combination of job openings, percent growth, and the average wages of an occupation.

For each of these three factors, an occupation's projected performance is compared to the average for the state or region being analyzed. The degree to which an occupation is above or below the average for the three factors is used to determine its grade. For example, an occupation that has a well-above average number of openings, a well-above average growth rate, and a well-above average wage would be assigned an A+, while an occupation with a slightly below average number of openings, and average growth rate, and a well-above average wage would score a B+.

Career Grades are available for Missouri and the state's 10 Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs). Grades assigned in each region are determined by comparing only the occupations within that region. Due to regional differences in economic makeup across the state, it is possible that an occupation can have a good outlook (and high grade) in one region, but have a poor outlook (and low grade) in another region.

Career Grades can assist students, job seekers, displaced workers, educators, and workforce professionals in choosing which careers have the best outlook in terms of having good growth, a large number of annual openings, and offer an above average salary for job seekers.

This report highlights occupations within each grade category in Missouri and those with the best outlook for every region of the state. To further assist with the career exploration process, occupations are grouped by the education and training levels associated with those groups.



Education, Training and Experience

The education and experience categories describe the most significant level of postsecondary education or training for a particular occupation based on national trends. While many occupations could be pursued with various levels of education or training, these groupings identify typical requirements and provide an additional source of information for a career-seeker.

Now

Short/Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupations generally requiring short-term on-the-job training are those for which less than 1 month of training suffices. Jobs that generally require moderate-term on-the-job training are those that assume training to last at least 1 month and no more than 12 months.

Next

Long-Term On-the-Job Training/Work Experience in a Related Occupation

Occupations requiring long-term on-the-job training are those for which more than one year of training is needed. Jobs that generally require work experience in a work-related occupation are assumed to require a level of skills and experience higher than that of jobs requiring long-term on-the-job training.

Associate's Degree/Vocational Education

Occupations requiring vocational education are those for which at least a few weeks or more than a year of vocational education is needed. Occupations that generally require the completion of an associate's degree program usually require at least 2 years of full-time academic study.

Later

Bachelor's Degree/Work Experience

Occupations that require completion of a bachelor's degree program usually require 4 or 5 years of full-time academic work. Jobs may require work experience in addition to a bachelor's degree or higher.

Master's/Doctoral/Professional Degree

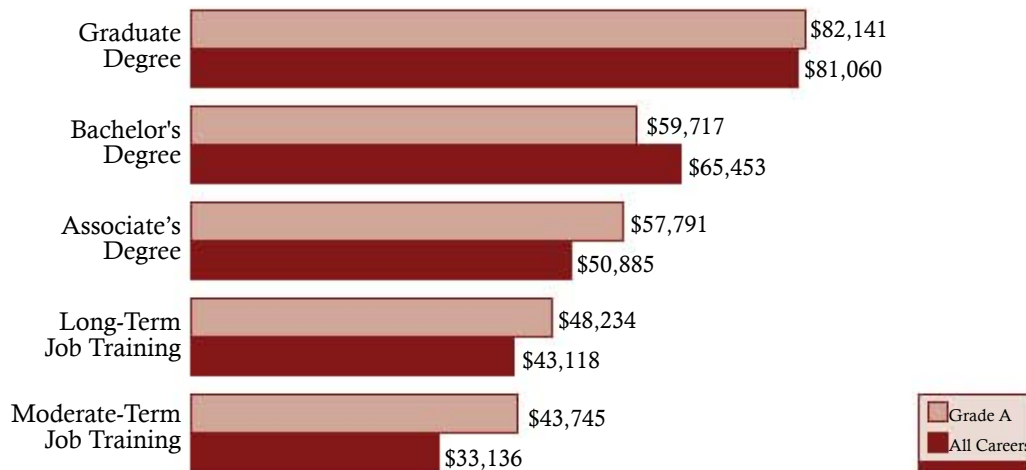
Occupations that require the completion of a master's degree program usually need 1 or 2 years of full-time equivalent study beyond a bachelor's degree whereas a doctoral degree program usually requires at least 3 years of academic work beyond a bachelor's degree. A professional degree usually requires at least 5 years of academic study.



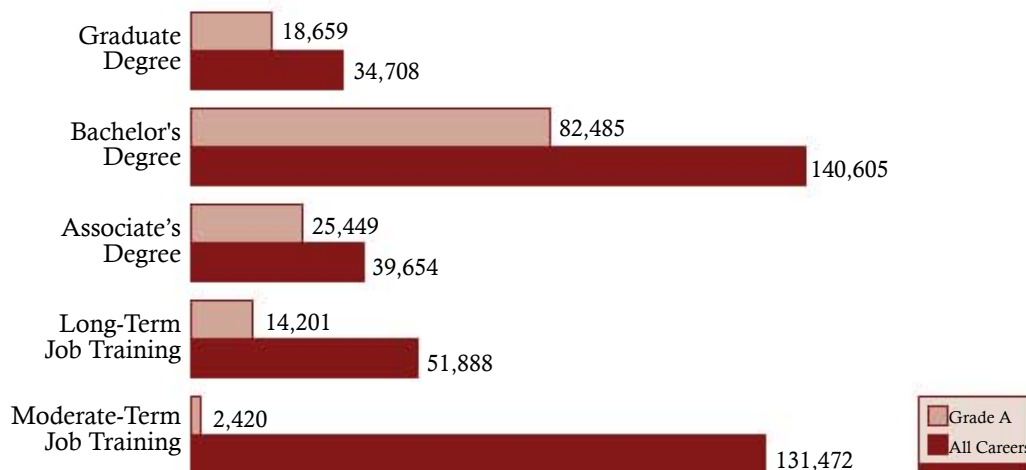
Grade A

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the state. Nearly 504,000 Missourians were employed in these in 2008, making up 17% of the state's employment. Grade A careers earn higher than average wages regardless of required education and training, with an average of \$59,040 in 2008 compared to the statewide average of \$38,849.

Average Annual Wage for Grade A Careers



Total Openings for Grade A Careers



Top Grade A Careers

Grade A occupations that typically require education and training of a bachelor's degree or graduate degree average even higher wages.

In the next ten years, employment in Grade A occupations is projected to increase by 11.4 percent, over triple the state's average growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Top Grade A Occupations

<i>Now</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Dental Assistants	2,019	\$33,100
Locomotive Engineers	401	ND

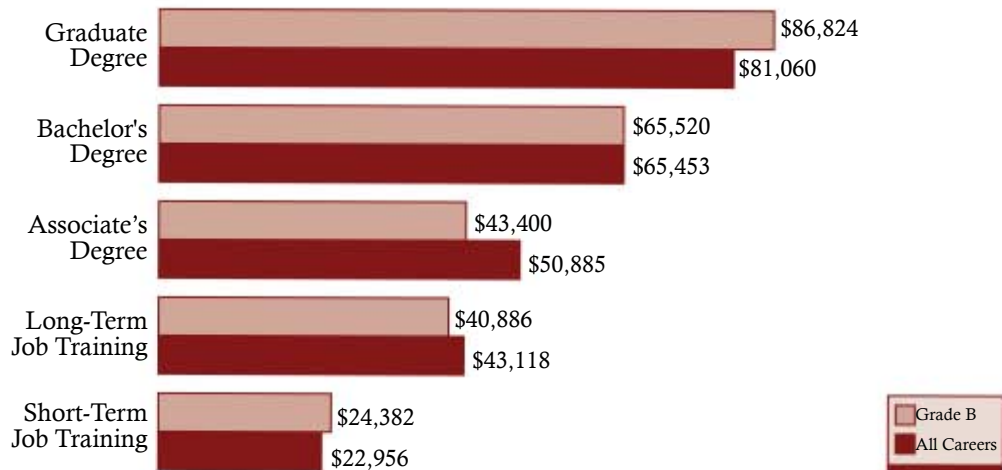
<i>Next</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Registered Nurses	21,029	\$56,667
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	7,815	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office & Administrative Support	5,946	\$47,297
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	3,890	\$41,148
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	3,200	\$56,813

<i>Later</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Elementary School Teachers	10,341	\$43,715
Secondary School Teachers	7,972	\$42,765
Accountants & Auditors	7,184	\$58,199
Insurance Sales Agents	5,859	\$54,165
Middle School Teachers	4,700	\$43,418

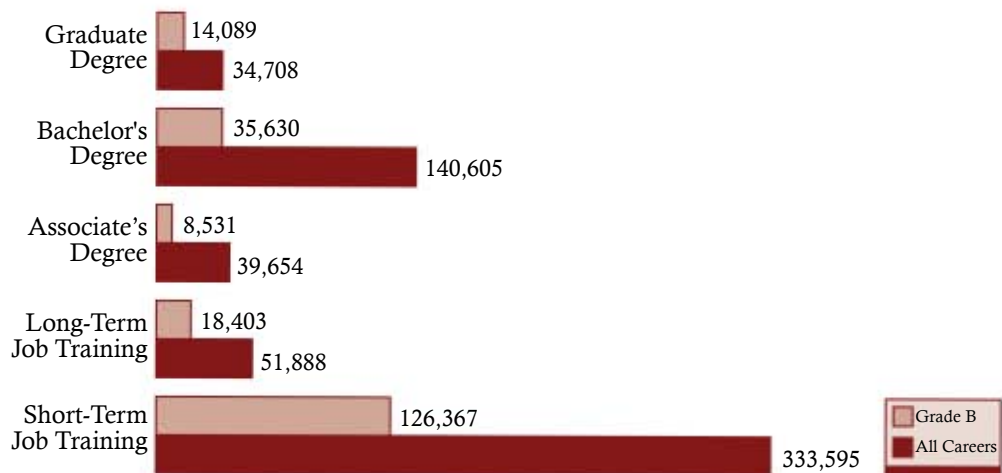
Grade B

Grade B careers have a good outlook compared to all occupations in the state. There were over 1,147,000 Missouri workers in 2008 employed in Grade B careers, making up nearly 40 percent of employment statewide. Overall, Grade B careers pay slightly lower wages than the state average, with Grade B careers paying an average of \$38,614 compared to \$38,849 for all occupations.

Average Annual Wage for Grade B Careers



Total Openings for Grade B Careers



Top Grade B Careers

In the next ten years, employment in Grade B occupations is projected to increase by 7 percent, faster than the state's average growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Grade B careers are projected to have more openings from 2008 to 2018 than any other grade category, with close to 319,000 projected openings in these careers.

Top Grade B Occupations

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Retail Salespersons	27,281	\$24,979
Customer Service Representatives	18,469	\$30,986
Office Clerks, General	13,810	\$27,724
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	10,228	\$38,108
Child Care Workers	10,112	\$19,041

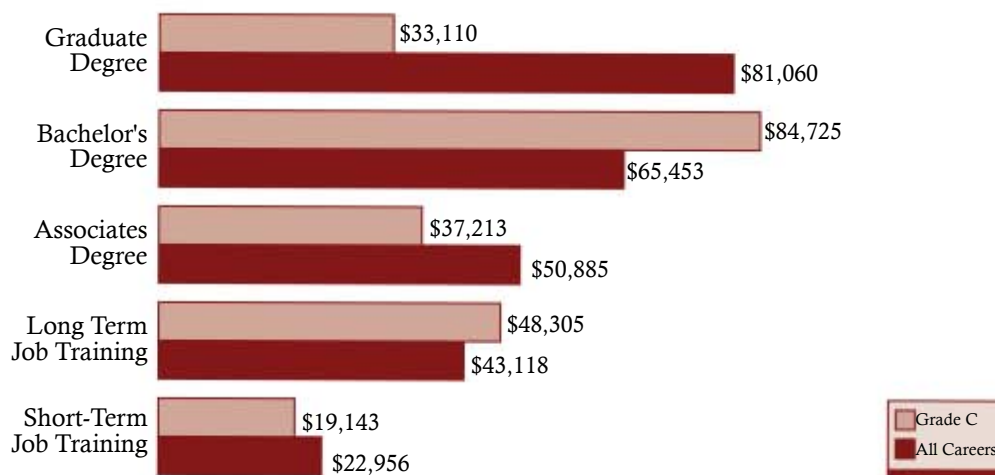
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	7,889	\$57,744
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	7,768	\$21,661
Cooks, Restaurant	6,552	\$21,307
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	5,688	\$39,020
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	4,234	\$41,896

Later	Openings	Average Wage
Teachers & Instructors	4,473	\$29,061
Lawyers	2,153	\$107,784
Management Analysts	1,500	\$71,384
Medical & Public Health Social Workers	1,488	\$40,878
Kindergarten Teachers	1,370	\$42,023

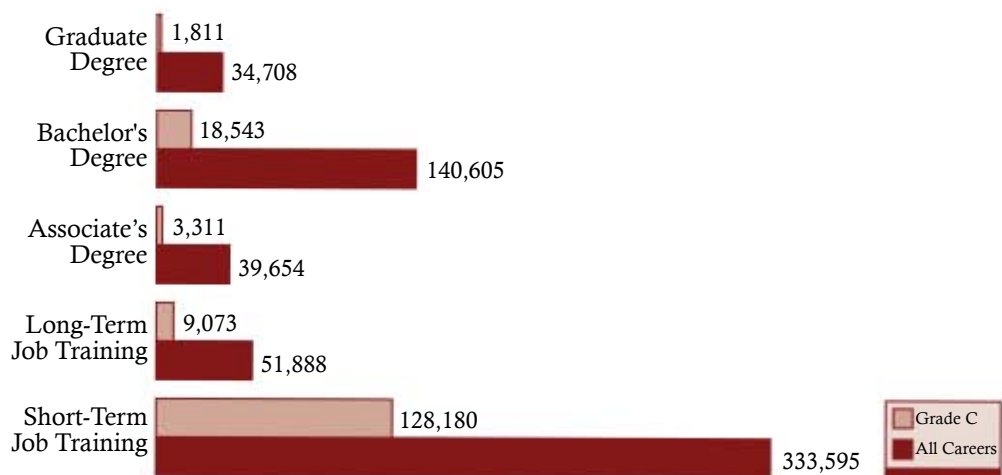
Grade C

Grade C careers have average growth and pay lower than average salaries compared to all occupations in the state. Nearly, 563,000 Missourians were employed in these occupations in 2008, making up 19.3 percent of the state's employment. Grade C careers earn lower than average wages, with an average of \$33,792 in 2008, compared to the statewide average of \$38,849.

Annual Average Wage for Grade C Careers



Total Openings for Grade C Careers



Top Grade C Careers

However, Grade C occupations that typically require education and training of a bachelor's degree or graduate degree earn wages close to the state average for occupations with similar requirements.

In the next ten years, employment in Grade C occupations is projected to increase by 1.01 percent, below with the state's average growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Top Grade C Occupations

<i>Now</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Cashiers	36,457	\$18,045
Waiters & Waitresses	29,430	\$17,928
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	22,766	\$16,870
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, & Coffee Shop	6,381	\$17,951
Dishwashers	5,019	\$17,082

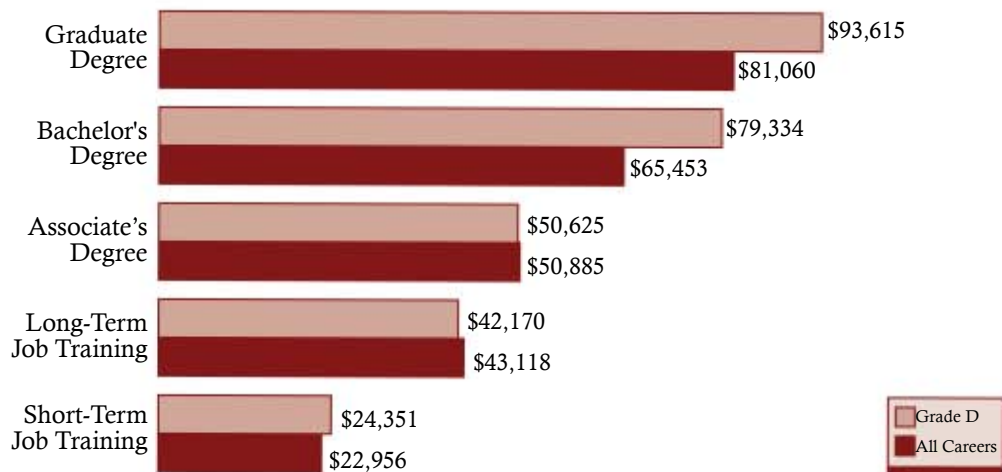
<i>Next</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	3,101	\$33,031
Electricians	3,047	\$53,111
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	1,876	\$24,570
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers	1,613	\$50,831
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	1,455	\$30,663

<i>Later</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
General & Operations Managers	9,233	\$96,029
Chief Executives	2,130	\$149,078
Computer Programmers	1,816	\$66,946
Graphic Designers	1,557	\$43,373
Rehabilitation Counselors	884	\$32,561

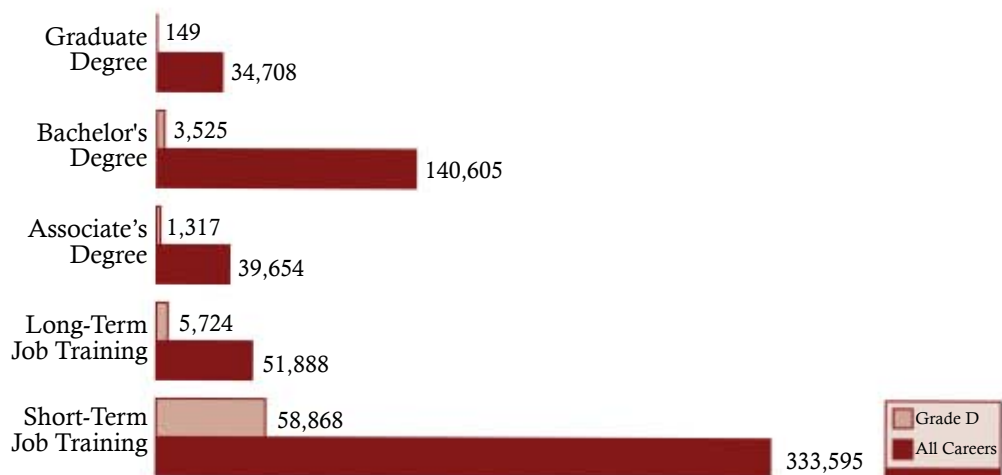
Grade D

Grade D careers have below average growth and pay lower than average salaries compared to all occupations in the state. Nearly 455,600 Missourians were employed in these occupations in 2008, making up 15.6 percent of the state's employment. Grade D careers had an average annual wage of \$30,553 in 2008, compared to the statewide average of \$38,849.

Average Annual Wage for Grade D Careers



Total Openings for Grade D Careers



Top Grade D Careers

In the next ten years, employment in Grade D occupations is projected to decrease by 5.5 percent, much slower than the state's average growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Openings in Grade D careers in Missouri are projected to total more than 102,000 by 2018.

Of all Grade D openings in Missouri, 57 percent will require short-term on-the-job training and 6 percent long-term on-the-job training. Very few will require higher education, with less than 9.3 percent requiring an associate's or vocational degree or higher.

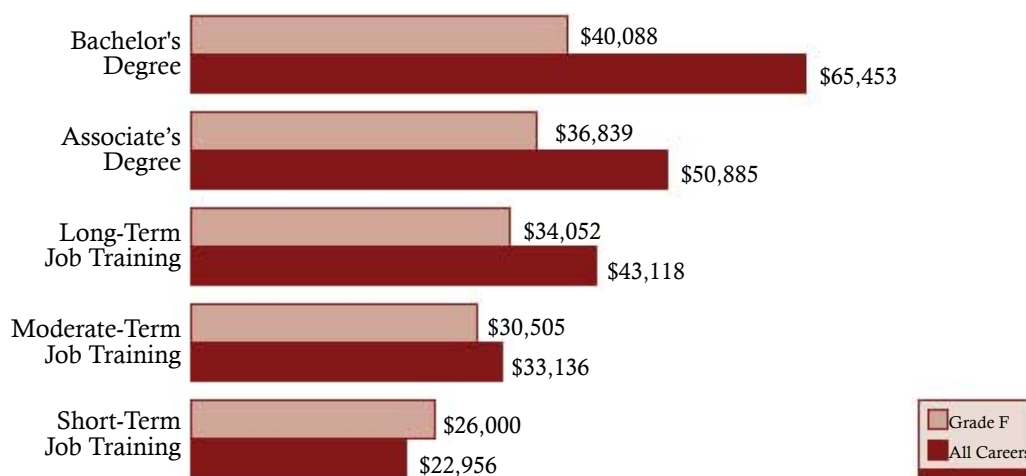
Top Grade D Occupations

<i>Now</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	13,520	\$25,714
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	9,081	\$22,170
Team Assemblers	7,211	\$26,474
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	5,944	\$19,393
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	4,700	\$28,726
<i>Next</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Machinists	1,290	\$35,627
Psychiatric Technicians	1,263	\$23,875
Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	1,239	\$39,635
Automotive Body & Related Repairers	934	\$45,142
Butchers & Meat Cutters	841	\$26,231
<i>Later</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Appraisers & Assessors of Real Estate	374	\$39,744
Recreational Therapists	361	\$31,935
Surveyors	323	\$47,253
Airline Pilots, Copilots, & Flight Engineers	323	ND
Purchasing Managers	314	\$94,665

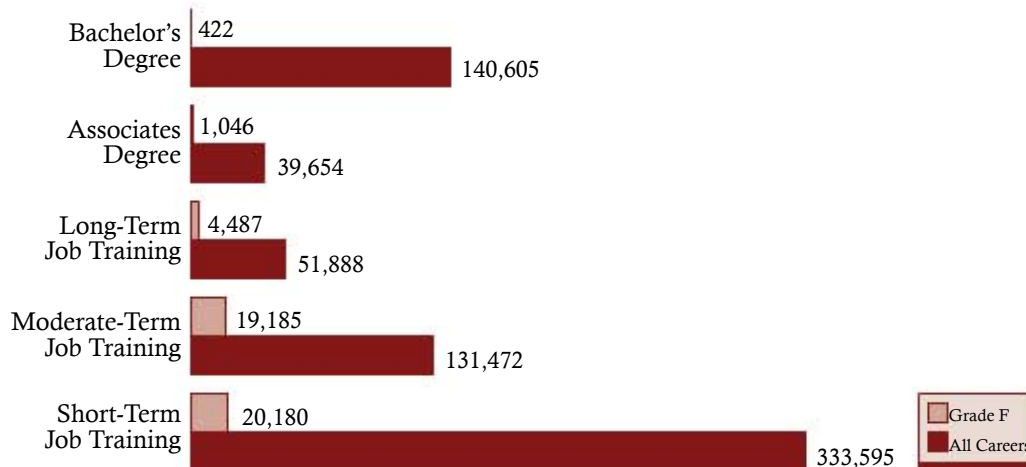
Grade F

Grade F careers have a poor outlook with declining growth rates, few openings, and lower than average wages compared to all occupations in the state. Over 211,000 Missourians were employed in these occupations in 2008, making up 7 percent of the state's employment. Grade F careers earn lower than average wages with an average of \$29,715 in 2008, compared to the statewide average of \$38,849. However, Grade F occupations that require only short-term on-the-job training earn similar to the state average for that level of training.

Average Annual Wage for Grade F Careers



Total Openings for Grade F Careers



Top Grade F Careers

In the next ten years, employment in Grade F occupations is projected to decline by 10.8 percent, compared to the state's average growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Only slightly more than 48,000 openings are projected for Grade F careers by 2018. Of all Grade F openings in Missouri, 41 percent will require short-term on-the-job training and 9 percent long-term on-the-job training. Very few will require higher education, with only 7 percent requiring an associate's or vocational degree or higher.

Top Grade F Occupations

<i>Now</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Cooks, Fast Food	1,736	\$16,869
Parts Salespersons	1,657	\$30,424
Order Clerks	1,486	\$25,292
Production Workers, All Other	1,420	\$29,408
Data Entry Keyers	1,346	\$26,395
<i>Next</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	727	\$28,043
Bakers	703	\$22,323
New Accounts Clerks	630	\$29,672
Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	465	\$30,018
Radio & Television Announcers	361	\$32,806
<i>Later</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Reporters & Correspondents	309	\$41,925
Legislators	107	\$34,556
Farm & Home Management Advisors	6	\$40,807

Regional Outlook

Central Region

Employment in the Central Region totaled slightly over 307,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 5.7 percent by 2018. This is below the state average projected growth of 3.3 percent.

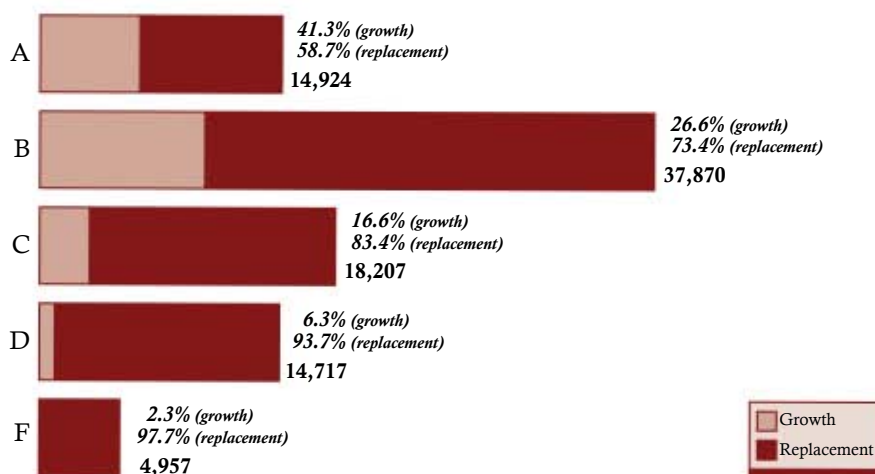
The Central Region is projected to have over 90,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 22.4 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. More than 47,000 in the Central Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 15 percent of the region’s employment. There are just under 15,000 projected Grade A openings in the Central Region, with over 41 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 40 percent of the Central Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 26.6 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for only 43.8 percent of employment in the Central Region. These careers have the fewest projected openings in 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Central Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Central

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	4,485	\$18,045
Waiters & Waitresses	3,191	\$17,928
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	3,127	\$16,870
Retail Salespersons	3,111	\$24,979
Customer Service Representatives	1,654	\$30,986
Office Clerks	1,407	\$27,724
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	1,236	\$25,714
Child Care Workers	1,104	\$19,041
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	2,746	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	1,252	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	936	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	814	\$39,020
Cooks, Restaurant	736	\$21,307
Carpenters	624	\$45,746
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	608	\$47,297
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	570	\$57,744
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	1,012	\$43,715
General & Operations Managers	857	\$96,029
Secondary School Teachers	825	\$42,765
Accountants & Auditors	708	\$58,199
Insurance Sales Agents	617	\$54,165
Teachers & Instructors	600	\$29,061
Middle School Teachers	457	\$43,418
Business Operations Specialists	373	\$60,872

Kansas City

Employment in the Kansas City Region totaled more than 584,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 5.6 percent by 2018. This is faster growth than the 3.3 percent state projected growth rate.

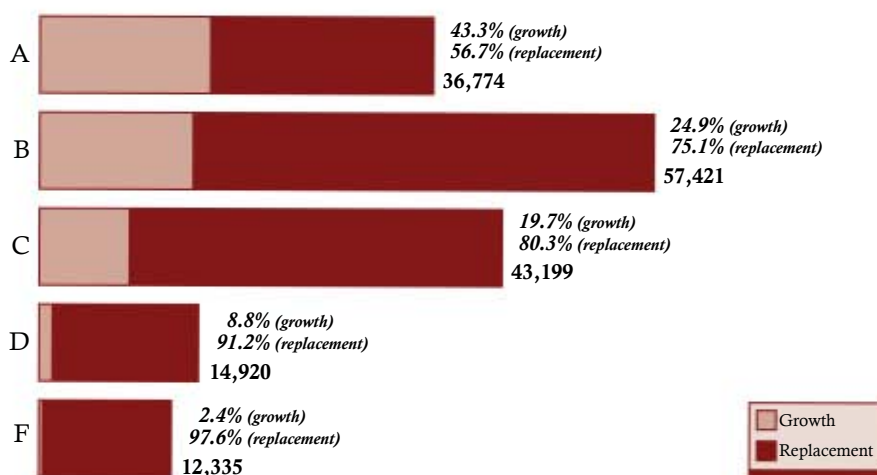
The Kansas City Region is projected to have more than 173,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 23.4 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Nearly 110,000 in the Kansas City Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 18.8 percent of the region’s employment. There are over 36,000 projected Grade A openings in the Kansas City Region, with nearly 43.3 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 34.4 percent of the Kansas City Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 24.9 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 45.4 percent of employment in the Kansas City Region. These careers have the fewest projected openings from 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Kansas City Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Kansas City

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	6,603	\$18,045
Waiters & Waitresses	6,047	\$17,928
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	5,564	\$16,870
Retail Salespersons	5,239	\$24,979
Customer Service Representatives	4,247	\$30,986
Office Clerks	3,312	\$27,724
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	2,636	\$25,714
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	2,185	\$22,170
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	3,258	\$56,667
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	1,625	\$57,744
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	1,405	\$21,661
Cooks, Restaurant	1,374	\$21,307
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	1,364	\$47,297
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,318	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	1,203	\$39,020
Computer Support Specialists	1,175	\$43,139
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Accountants & Auditors	1,997	\$58,199
General & Operations Managers	1,894	\$96,029
Elementary School Teachers	1,849	\$43,715
Insurance Sales Agents	1,566	\$54,165
Secondary School Teachers	1,397	\$42,765
Computer Systems Analysts	1,154	\$72,018
Clergy	1,028	\$43,945
Teachers & Instructors	934	\$29,061

Northeast Region

Employment in the Northeast Region totaled just over 92,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 6.1 percent by 2018. This is above the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

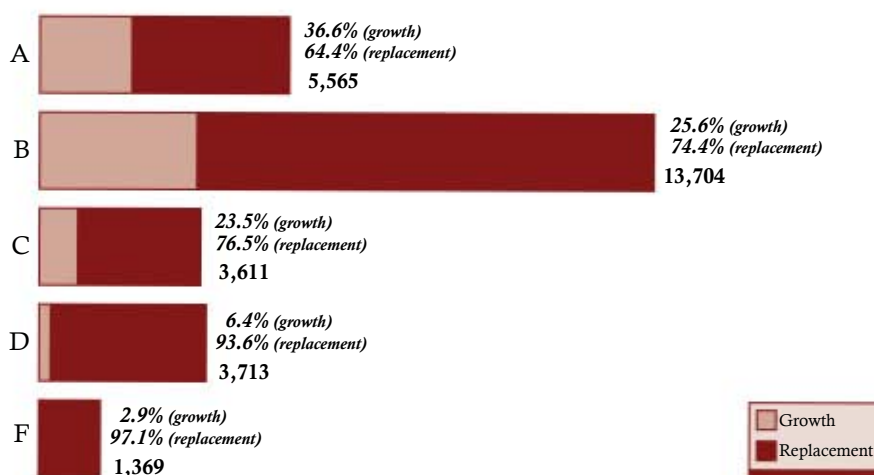
The Northeast Region is projected to have just under than 28,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 23.9 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Around 17,000 in the Northeast Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 18.3 percent of the region’s employment. There are just over 5,500 projected Grade A openings in the Northeast Region, with 36.6 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 45.1 percent of the Northeast Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 25.6 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F combined account for 35.3 percent of employment in the Northeast Region. These careers have the fewest openings from 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Northeast Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Northeast

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	1,617	\$18,045
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	924	\$16,870
Waiters & Waitresses	874	\$17,928
Retail Salespersons	782	\$24,979
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	569	\$38,108
Office Clerks	465	\$27,724
Customer Service Representatives	459	\$30,986
Child Care Workers	441	\$19,041

Next	Openings	Average Wage
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	443	\$21,661
Registered Nurses	418	\$56,667
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	287	\$34,178
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	276	\$57,744
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	274	\$39,020
Cooks, Restaurant	203	\$21,307
Carpenters	192	\$45,746
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	190	\$47,297

Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	395	\$43,715
Secondary School Teachers	307	\$42,765
General & Operations Managers	254	\$96,029
Teachers & Instructors	217	\$29,061
Accountants & Auditors	186	\$58,199
Middle School Teachers	180	\$43,418
Insurance Sales Agents	112	\$54,165
Clergy	108	\$43,945

Northwest Region

Employment in the Northwest Region totaled over 112,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 3.9 percent by 2018. This is slightly faster than the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

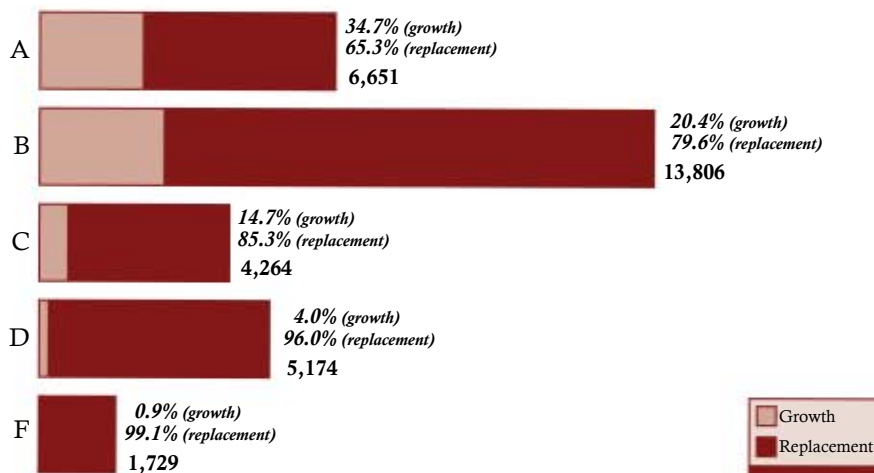
The Northwest Region is projected to have more than 31,000 job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 18.9 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. More than 21,000 in the Northwest Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 18.9 percent of the region’s employment. There are almost 6,600 projected Grade A openings in the Northwest Region, with more than 34.7 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 39.6 percent of the Northwest Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 20.4 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 40.2 percent of employment in the Northwest Region. These careers have the fewest projected openings from 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Northwest Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Northwest

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	1,636	\$18,045
Retail Salespersons	1,008	\$24,979
Waiters & Waitresses	925	\$17,928
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	889	\$16,870
Customer Service Representatives	612	\$30,986
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	514	\$25,714
Office Clerks	490	\$27,724
Child Care Workers	428	\$19,041
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	679	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	421	\$21,661
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	334	\$57,744
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	326	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	303	\$39,020
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	223	\$47,297
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	202	\$34,904
Carpenters	200	\$45,746
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	322	\$43,715
General & Operations Managers	314	\$96,029
Insurance Sales Agents	260	\$54,165
Secondary School Teachers	254	\$42,765
Accountants & Auditors	217	\$58,199
Teachers & Instructors	177	\$29,061
Middle School Teachers	146	\$43,418
Farm, Ranch, & Other Agricultural Managers	104	ND

Ozark Region

Employment in the Ozark Region totaled over 251,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase 9.7 percent by 2018. This is above the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

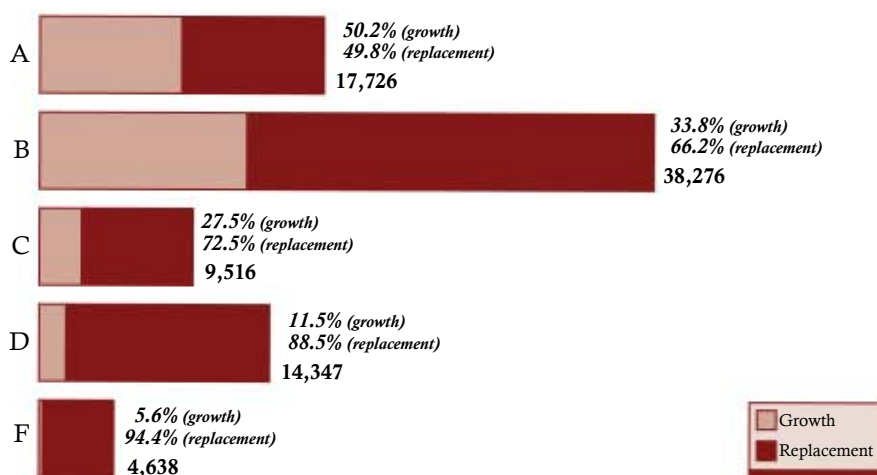
The Ozark Region is projected to have almost 84,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 31.2 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are indentified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A career have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. More than 43,000 in the Ozark Region were employed in Grade A occupations, making up 17.3 percent of the region’s employment. There are over 17,000 projected Grade A openings in the Ozark Region, with 50.1 percent classifies as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 43.5 percent of the Ozark Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018 with 33.8 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F combined account for 38 percent of employment in the Ozark Region. These careers have the fewest projected openings in 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Ozark Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Ozark

<i>Now</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Cashiers	3,731	\$18,045
Waiters & Waitresses	3,170	\$17,928
Retail Salespersons	3,134	\$24,979
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	2,873	\$16,870
Customer Service Representatives	1,795	\$30,986
Office Clerks	1,609	\$27,724
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1,457	\$38,108
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	1,249	\$25,714
<i>Next</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Registered Nurses	2,983	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	1,184	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	915	\$34,178
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	751	\$57,744
Cooks, Restaurant	731	\$21,307
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	730	\$39,020
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	629	\$47,297
Carpenters	491	\$45,746
<i>Later</i>	<i>Openings</i>	<i>Average Wage</i>
Elementary School Teachers	796	\$43,715
General & Operations Managers	761	\$96,029
Insurance Sales Agents	704	\$54,165
Secondary School Teachers	608	\$42,765
Accountants & Auditors	603	\$58,199
Teachers & Instructors	420	\$29,061
Middle School Teachers	360	\$43,418
Clergy	346	\$43,945

South Central Region

Employment in the South Central Region totaled over 71,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 7 percent by 2018. This is above the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

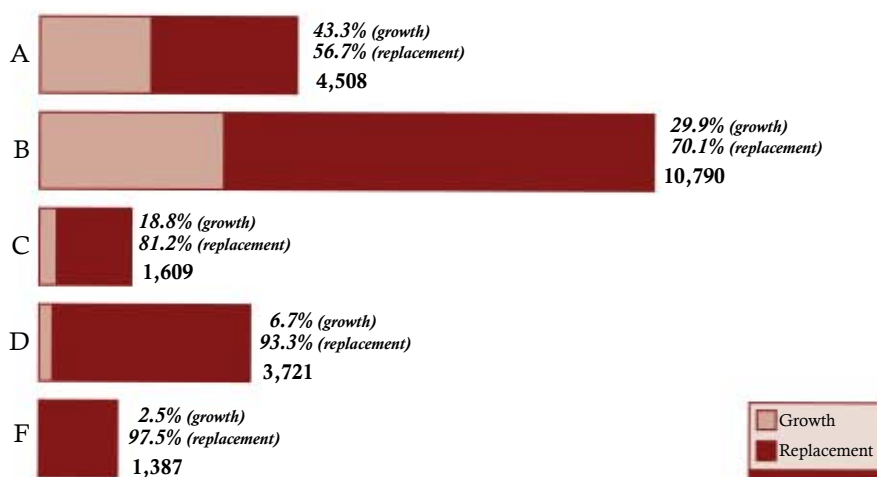
The South Central Region is projected to have over 22,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 26.2 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. More than 12,000 in the South Central Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 17.2 percent of the region’s employment. There are over 4,500 projected Grade A openings in the South Central Region, with 43.3 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 44.4 percent of the South Central Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 29.9 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 37.2 percent of employment in the South Central Region. Most job openings in these careers are classified as replacement openings.

South Central Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—South Central

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	1,230	\$18,045
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	657	\$16,870
Waiters & Waitresses	622	\$17,928
Retail Salespersons	527	\$24,979
Child Care Workers	461	\$19,041
Customer Service Representatives	375	\$30,986
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	358	\$25,714
Office Clerks	357	\$27,724

Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	592	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	296	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	260	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	226	\$39,020
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	203	\$57,744
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	145	\$47,297
Cooks, Restaurant	145	\$21,307
Carpenters	125	\$45,746

Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	256	\$43,715
Secondary School Teachers	201	\$42,765
General & Operations Managers	192	\$96,029
Teachers & Instructors	152	\$29,061
Accountants & Auditors	150	\$58,199
Middle School Teachers	116	\$43,418
Insurance Sales Agents	101	\$54,165
Business Operations Specialists	69	\$60,872

Southeast Region

Employment in the Southeast Region was over 157,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 5.25 percent by 2018. This is faster than the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

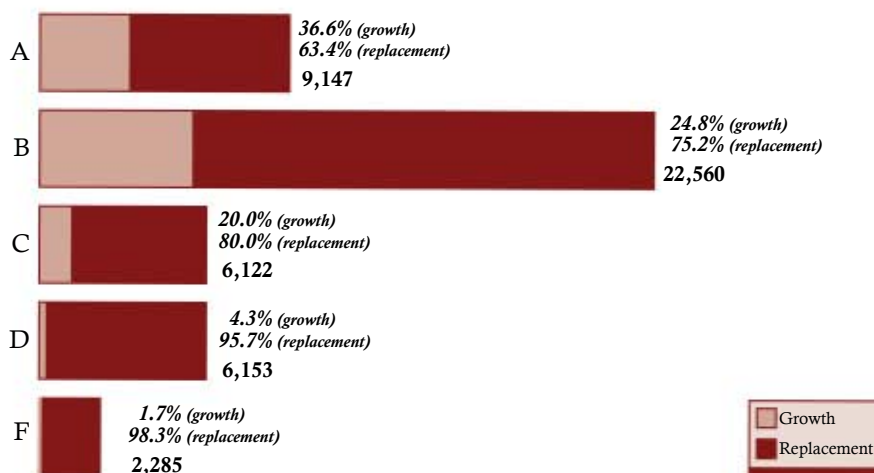
The Southeast Region is projected to have more than 46,000 job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 22.7 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Over 28,000 in the Southeast Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 18.1 percent of the region’s employment. There are over 9,100 projected Grade A openings in the Southeast Region, with 36.5 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 43.9 percent of the Southeast Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region between 2008 and 2018, with 24.8 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 36.7 percent of employment in the Southeast Region. These careers have the fewest projected openings in 2008 to 2018, most of which are replacement openings.

Southeast Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Southeast

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	2,440	\$18,045
Retail Salespersons	1,479	\$24,979
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	1,475	\$16,870
Waiters & Waitresses	1,454	\$17,928
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	877	\$38,108
Child Care Workers	871	\$19,041
Personal & Home Care Aides	807	\$18,714
Customer Service Representatives	806	\$30,986
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	1,237	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	617	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	503	\$34,178
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	460	\$57,744
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	424	\$39,020
Cooks, Restaurant	336	\$21,307
Carpenters	314	\$45,746
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	292	\$47,297
Later	Openings	Average Wage
General & Operations Managers	454	\$96,029
Elementary School Teachers	436	\$43,715
Secondary School Teachers	337	\$42,765
Accountants & Auditors	273	\$58,199
Teachers & Instructors	234	\$29,061
Insurance Sales Agents	222	\$54,165
Middle School Teachers	195	\$43,418
Clergy	194	\$43,945

Southwest Region

Employment in the Southwest Region totaled just under 134,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 3.8 percent by 2018. This is inline with the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

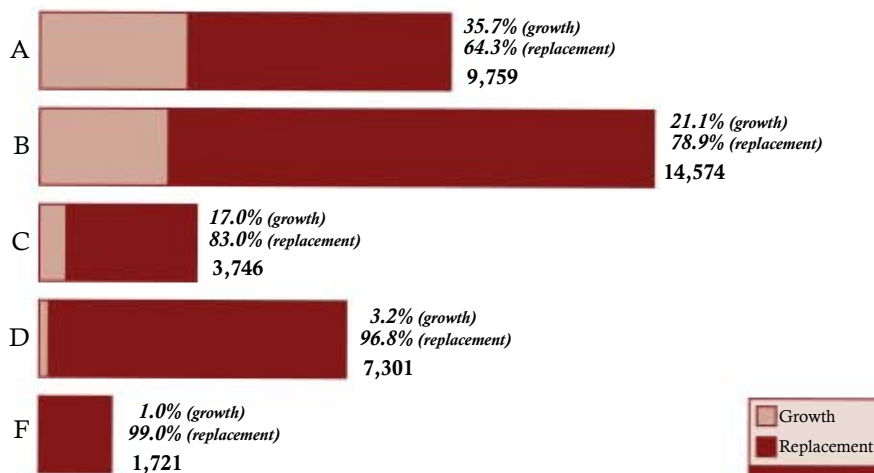
The Southwest Region is projected to have more than 37,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 20.1 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Nearly 31,000 in the Southwest Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 23 percent of the region’s employment. There are more than 9,700 projected Grade A openings in the Southwest Region, with 35.7 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 39.4 percent of the Southwest Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 21.1 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 36.7 percent of employment in the Southwest Region. Most of the projected job openings in these careers are replacement openings.

Southwest Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—Southwest

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	1,812	\$18,045
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1,575	\$38,108
Retail Salespersons	1,319	\$24,979
Waiters & Waitresses	1,025	\$17,928
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	931	\$16,870
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	803	\$25,714
Customer Service Representatives	694	\$30,986
Office Clerks	580	\$27,724
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	756	\$56,667
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	448	\$57,744
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	377	\$39,020
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	334	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	296	\$34,178
Carpenters	273	\$45,746
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	248	\$47,297
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	227	\$34,904
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	403	\$43,715
General & Operations Managers	381	\$96,029
Secondary School Teachers	308	\$42,765
Farmers & Ranchers	248	\$55,790
Accountants & Auditors	236	\$58,199
Teachers & Instructors	217	\$29,061
Middle School Teachers	183	\$43,418
Insurance Sales Agents	182	\$54,165

St. Louis Region

Employment in the St. Louis Region totaled over 1,148,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 3.9 percent by 2018. This is close to the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

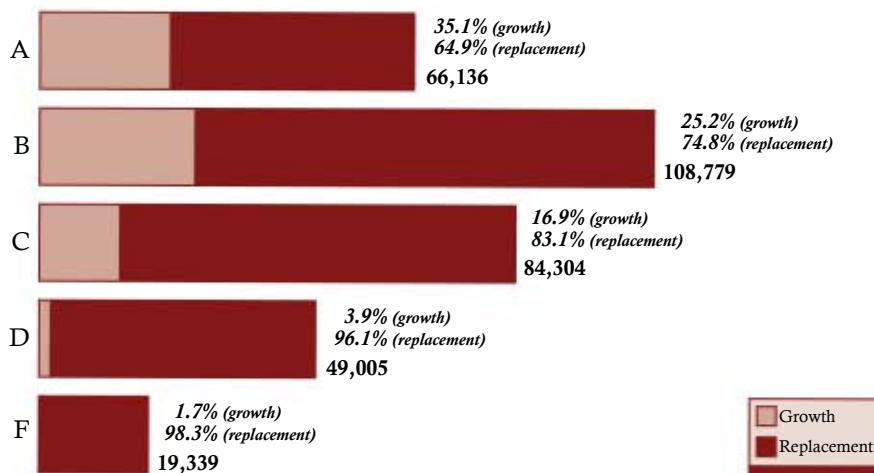
The St. Louis Region is projected to have over 327,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 20.5 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are identified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Over 212,000 in the St. Louis Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 18.5 percent of the region’s employment. There are more than 66,000 projected Grade A openings in the St. Louis Region, with 35.1 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 35.1 percent of the St. Louis Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 25.2 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 45.2 percent of employment in the St. Louis Region. Most of the projected openings in these careers are replacement openings.

St. Louis Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers—St. Louis

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Waiters & Waitresses	12,432	\$17,928
Cashiers	12,426	\$18,045
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	11,592	\$16,870
Retail Salespersons	9,297	\$24,979
Customer Service Representatives	7,787	\$30,986
Office Clerks	5,594	\$27,724
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	5,255	\$25,714
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	3,758	\$22,170
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	6,932	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	3,500	\$21,661
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	3,445	\$57,744
Cooks, Restaurant	2,927	\$21,307
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	2,917	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	2,472	\$47,297
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	1,919	\$39,020
Computer Support Specialists	1,892	\$43,139
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	3,828	\$43,715
General & Operations Managers	3,791	\$96,029
Accountants & Auditors	3,332	\$58,199
Secondary School Teachers	2,942	\$42,765
Insurance Sales Agents	2,624	\$54,165
Teachers & Instructors	1,927	\$29,061
Middle School Teachers	1,738	\$43,418
Computer Systems Analysts	1,635	\$72,018

West Central Region

Employment in the West Central Region totaled over 98,000 in 2008 and is projected to increase by 4.1 percent by 2018. This is above the state projected growth rate of 3.3 percent.

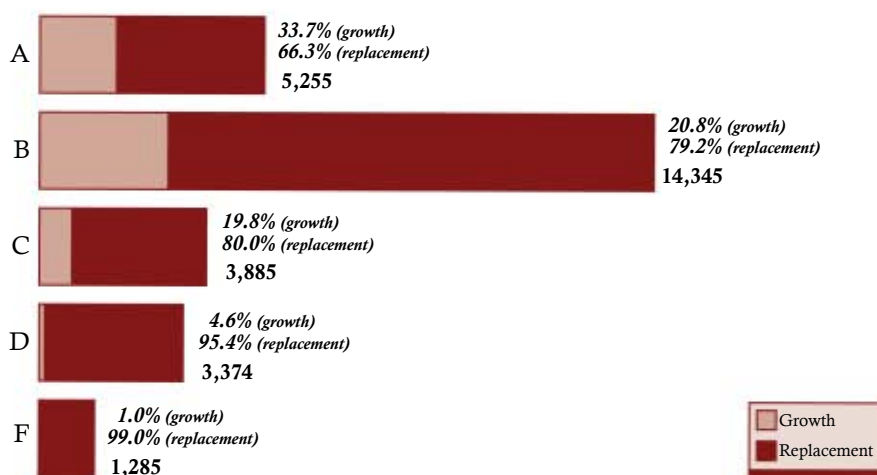
The West Central Region is projected to have more than 28,000 total job openings between 2008 and 2018, with 20.2 percent classified as growth openings. Job openings are indentified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies that are created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Grade A careers have the best outlook with above average growth rates, number of openings and average wages compared to all occupations in the region. Over 16,000 in the West Central Region were employed in Grade A occupations in 2008, making up 16.6 percent of the region’s employment. There are over 5,200 projected Grade A openings in the West Central Region, with 33.7 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade B careers make up 48 percent in the West Central Region’s employment. These careers are projected to have the most openings in the region from 2008 to 2018, with 20.8 percent classified as growth openings.

Grade C, Grade D and Grade F careers combined account for 34.2 percent of employment in the West Central Region. Most of the projected job openings in these careers are replacement openings.

West Central Openings by Grade Level



Good Outlook Careers— West Central

Now	Openings	Average Wage
Cashiers	1,573	\$18,045
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	883	\$16,870
Waiters & Waitresses	872	\$17,928
Retail Salespersons	836	\$24,979
Child Care Workers	556	\$19,041
Customer Service Representatives	442	\$30,986
Office Clerks	421	\$27,724
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	394	\$38,108
Next	Openings	Average Wage
Registered Nurses	713	\$56,667
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	417	\$21,661
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	304	\$34,178
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	294	\$39,020
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	263	\$57,744
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	202	\$41,148
Cooks, Restaurant	190	\$21,307
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	180	\$47,297
Later	Openings	Average Wage
Elementary School Teachers	324	\$43,715
Secondary School Teachers	272	\$42,765
General & Operations Managers	257	\$96,029
Teachers & Instructors	186	\$29,061
Accountants & Auditors	179	\$58,199
Middle School Teachers	148	\$43,418
Insurance Sales Agents	123	\$54,165
Special Ed. Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, & Elementary School	88	\$45,162

Career Grade Methodology

The Career Grade Index equally weights three variables (average wages, total openings over the 10 year period, and % change over the 10 year period). It is the combination of scores for any of the three variables that defines an occupation's Career Grade. Order of scores within each possible combination is not specific.

Career Grade Index Key

Score	Value	Definition
2	Slightly Above Average	scored at least two standard deviations above mean
1	Above Average	scored between one and two standard deviations above mean
0	Average	scored between one standard deviation below mean and one standard deviation above mean
-1	Below Average	scored between one and two standard deviations below mean
-2	Significantly Below Average	scored at least two standard deviations below mean

Example—To be designated a Grade A+ an occupation can have a combination of the following scores: 2,2,2; 2,2,1; 2,1,2 or 1,2,2

Career Grades were developed for the state and for each of the 10 sub-state regions in Missouri. For the statewide Career Grades, mean scores were developed from statewide averages, % change, and total openings. For the regional Career Grades, mean scores were developed for each region's average wage, % change, and total openings. In other words, occupations in the South Central Region of Missouri were not compared with occupations from the St. Louis Region in the regional grading process.

Career Grade Index

Career Grade	Possible Combinations of Scores		
Grade A+	2,2,2	2,2,1	
Grade A	2,1,1	1,1,1	
Grade A-	2,1,1	2,1,0	1,1,0
Grade B+	2,2,0	1,0,0	
Grade B	2,0,0	2,1,-1	1,1,-2
Grade B-	2,0,-1		
Grade C+	2,2,-2	2,1,-2	1,1,-2
Grade C	0,0,0	1,0,-1	2,0,-2
Grade C-	1,0,-2		
Grade D+	-2,0,0	-1,0,0	
Grade D	2,-2,-2	2,-2,-1	2,-1,-1
Grade D-	1,-2,-2	1,-2,-1	1,-1,-1
Grade F+	-2,-2,0	-2,-1,0	-1,-1,0
Grade F	-2,-1,-1	-1,-1,-1	
Grade F-	-2,-2,-2	-2,-2,-1	

Career
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2008-2018



NAVIGATING MISSOURI'S TOP JOBS—2010



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